4911 Aurora Drive
Kensington, Maryland 20895
May 15, 1988

Mr. Kelly Brennan, President
Oxford House, Northampton
3765 Northampton Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Kelly:

I enjoyed visiting with you all and sitting in on the house meeting April 25. It's always gratifying to see an Oxford House running so well.

I was looking through my files to find out exactly when the Northampton house started and found the first lease. It was signed on November 18, 1977, for $800 monthly, with an option for renewal for one year at the same price.

The house had been vacant for several months, because there was a glut of large rental housing at the time. Some youngsters had broken in and had been using it to hang out. There were empty beer cans and chicken bones in the top front bedroom the day we moved in.

It was the first Oxford House to begin without somebody moving in who had lived in an existing house. The first president was Buddy C., a Naval Academy graduate who had fallen on hard times. He ran the house like it was his personal platoon (or whatever they call them in the Navy) for a few months before others realized the majority really did rule and there was a mutiny. He did establish a tradition of neatness that has carried on to the present, as Lou can testify. Ralph C., who now works part-time at the West Side Club, lived there for many years and helped continue that tradition.

Again, congratulations on the fine job you all are doing there. I thought you might be interested in knowing you'll be 11 years old next November 18.

Yours sincerely,

John O'Neill